

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT JA ELAB

SUBJ: JAPAN TEACHERS' UNION OFFICES RAIDED BY POLICE

SUMMARY: POLICE RAIDS ON OFFICES OF JAPAN TEACHERS' UNION
FOLLOWING NATIONWIDE TEACHER WALKOUT APR 11 IN DEFIANCE LOCAL
PUBLIC SERVICE LAW BANNING STRIKE ACTION BY GOVT EMPLOYEES
IS EXPECTED TO BECOME MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE POLICE IN TOKYO AND 11 OTHER LOCAL JURISDICTIONS
NATIONWIDE APR 11 RAIDED 814 OFFICES OF JAPAN TEACHERS'
UNION (NIKKYOSO) AND AFFILIATED PREFECTURAL TEACHERS' UNIONS
ON SUSPICION OF VIOLATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE LAW AFTER
270,000 PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS BOYCOTTED CLASSROOMS IN ALL-DAY
TEACHERS STRIKE THROUGHOUT JAPAN. ACCORDING TO POLICE AUTHORITIES,
RAIDS WERE CONDUCTED TO COLLECT STRIKE ORDERS AND OTHER DOCUMENTARY
EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT CHARGES THAT NIKKYOSO OFFICIALS HAD PLANNED
AND INSTIGATED VIOLATIONS OF LOCAL GOVT PUBLIC SERVICE LAW
WHICH SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITS PARTICIPATION BY LOCAL GOVT
EMPLOYEES IN LABOR DISPUTES. GOVT ACTION WAS ENCOURAGED
BY APR 1973 SUPREME COURT RULING IN CASE INVOLVING NATIONAL
FOREST WORKERS THAT SIMILAR LAW COVERING NATIONAL PUBLIC
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WORKERS BANNED ALL STRIKE ACTION BY THEM. MATERIAL COLLECTED IN

RAIDS IS EXPECTED TO FORM BASIS OF ARRESTS AND INDICTMENTS AGAINST UNION OFFICIALS.

2. POLICE ACTION AROUSED PREDICTABLE STORM OF PROTEST FROM LEFTIST GROUPS, NIKKYOSO SPOKESMAN RELEASED STATEMENT DENOUNCING RAIDS AS ACT OF QTE FASCIST OPPRESSION UNQTE, WHILE BOTH JSP AND JCP THREATENED TO TAKE UP MATTER IN DIET AFTER LODGING STRONG PROTESTS AGAINST POLICE ACTION WITH CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIDO.

3. PRESS THUS FAR HAS NOT COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON ISSUE EDITORIALY. MOST OBSERVERS, HOWEVER, BELIEVE ESSENTIAL MOTIVATION FOR GOJ ACTION AGAINST TEACHERS' UNION WAS TO HIGHLIGHT CURRENT POLITICAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CONSERVATIVES AND NIKKYOSO AND TO MAKE EDUCATION AN ISSUE IN FORTHCOMING UPPER HOUSE ELECTION. PRIME MINISTER TANAKA AND EDUCATION MINISTER SIESUKE OKUNO HAVE RECENTLY BEEN STEPPING UP THEIR ATTACKS ON NIKKYOSO AS POLITICAL BODY WHICH HAS AS ITS AIM PROMOTION OF SOCIALIST REVOLUTION RATHER THAN PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS OF MEMBERS. GOJ APPARENTLY FEELS IT HAS AT LEAST TACIT POPULAR SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION AND IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO PRESS ITS OFFENSIVE AGAINST NIKKYOSO.
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